

App. No. 09/787981
Office Action Dated September 17, 2005
Amd. Dated March 16, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 7 has been amended. The amendment to claim 7 is at least supported by Figure 1 and page 4, lines 5-6. Claim 16 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. Claim 7-13 are pending.

The specification has been amended to delete the paragraph that was added previously after the paragraph ending at page 4, line 27. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

§112 Rejection

Claims 7-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection but have otherwise amended claim 7, claim 16 has been canceled and claims 8-13 depend from claim 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Schott, Jr. (US 3,980,418)

Furthermore, applicants hereby provide the following comments with regard to Schott (US 3,980,418) cited in the previous Office Actions.

Schott, Jr. is directed to a guide assembly for air-expanded thermoplastic tubes. Schott teaches a bubble guide of the tube employing guide members mounted on elongated, pivoted support arms. Schott relates to the guide and control of tubes being extruded, for instance, guide and stabilization of the bubble during formation of thermoplastic film in the well-known blown film process (emphasis added).

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In the extrusion of tubes as in the blown film process it is desired to guide or stabilize the tube (e.g. plastic bags or sacks) with external guide members, i.e. direct the motion of the tube (plastic bag/sack) upward/vertical (emphasis added). In the blown film process an extruder 10 feeds a die 12 from which issues a tube 14 of molten plastic, which is cooled by an air-ring assembly 16, and expands in diameter until chilled (col. 2, ll. 46-49). As the plastic melt is extruded through the die 12, air is introduced via a hole in the center of the die to blow up the tube like a balloon to form a thin walled tube. The air-ring assembly 16 mounted on the top of the die blows onto the hot film cooling the molten plastic. Thus, the size of the tube is controlled by the flow rate of the air into the tube (col. 4, ll. 51-52).

As shown in FIG. 8, a regulator 70 sensing the position of arm 62 is provided, an elongated slot 71 being provided also for the pivot 63 to permit limited movement of the arm 62 in response to the enlargement of the extruded tube (col. 4, ll. 8-12). Change in tube diameter results in a part of the arm 62 rotating and engaging the regulator feeder (col. 4, ll. 14-18). This signal corresponding by increases or decreases in the amount of air flowing into the bubble, which recharge the size of the bubble (col. 4, ll. 18-21).

According to the embodiment of FIG. 9, a single guide member senses the position of the film. Regulator 70' senses the position of the guide member 20 and, in a manner similar to that mentioned in regard to FIG. 8, regulates the amount of air within the tube (col. 4, ll. 32-35).

Schott requires a control arrangement as described for FIGS. 8 and 9 to control the amount of cooling air supplied to the interior of the extruded tube. The size of the tube is determined by the amount of air supplied into the tube, i.e. the volume of air

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results in the diameter change. The position of the guide members is dependent on the volume of air supplied into the tube, i.e. the guide members change position depending on the amount of air supplied to the tube.

Schott fails to teach or suggest the pipe is cooled down and hardened by a water bath as required by claim 7. Thus Schott fails to anticipate independent claim 7. Withdrawal of the previous rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-13 depend from claim 7. For at least the reasons discussed above for claim 7 withdrawal of the previous rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues related to this matter, please contact Applicant's attorney of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at 612.371.5265.

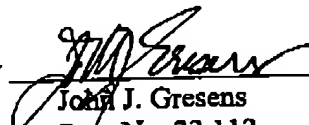
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 16, 2005

By


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JJG:mmm